

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 073012  
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY IO/UNA:BJSHARP

APPROVED BY IO/UNA:AFHOLLOWAY

S/S-O:MVKENNEDY

-----078072 220217Z /64

O 212356Z MAR 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 073012

EXDIS FOR AMB YOUNG FROM UNA

FOL RPT BEIRUT 1511 ACTION SECSTATE DAMASCUS TEL AVIV BAGHDAD  
INFO AMMAN CAIRO JIDDA KUWAIT JERUSALEM 21 MAR 78 QUOTE

S E C R E T BEIRUT 1511

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, MOPS, SY, LE, IS

SUBJ: SOUTH LEBANON: MOVEMENT OF IRAQI TRUCK CONVOY

REF: STATE 071173

1. CALLED FONMIN BOUTROS 0915 HOURS LOCAL AND TOLD HIM WE HAD  
RECEIVED FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING IRAQI CONVOY  
OR CONVOYS THAT WE HAD DISCUSSED YESTERDAY. APPARENTLY  
ONE CONVOY ALREADY ARRIVED IN NABATIYAH. ISRAELIS VERY  
PERTURBED BY THIS AND IF THERE WERE ANY MORE I WAS  
CONVINCED ISRAELIS WOULD ATTACK AND THEN THERE WOULD BE  
ALL HELL TO PAY. I WAS UNDER INSTRUCTION ASK HIM TO

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RAISE THIS MATTER WITH SYRIAN. WE HAD ALREADY DONE SO  
OURSELVES BUT THOUGHT IT WOULD BE EASIER FOR SYRIANS  
TO PREVENT PASSAGE OF CONVOYS IF LEBANON HAD REQUESTED  
THEM TO DO SO.

2. BOUTROS SAID PRIME MINISTER HOSS WAS ALREADY  
ENROUTE TO DAMASCUS AND THIS WAS AMONG SUBJECTS HE WAS

GOING TO DISCUSS. HE AND BOUTROS HAD AGREED YESTERDAY THAT HE WOULD POINT OUT TO SYRIANS INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC LEBANESE CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH REINFORCEMENTS. HE THOUGHT HOSS'S DEMARCHE PLUS OURS OF LAST NIGHT WOULD DO THE TRICK.

3. WOULD BE USEFUL FOR US TO HAVE CONSOLIDATED REPORT ON WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT THESE CONVOYS. WE HAVE VARIOUS FRAGMENTS OF PUZZLE BUT I AM NOT SURE WE HAVE ENTIRE PICTURE. WOULD APPRECIATE RAPID SUMMARY FROM INR. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE FROM TEL AVIV ISRAELI READOUT WITH AS MANY DETAILS AS POSSIBLE ON UNDERSTANDING WE WOULD PASS IT TO LEBANESE.

4. OUR OWN INFORMATION IS AS FOLLOWS:

A. A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT SAW 31 CIVILIAN TRUCKS WITH IRAQI LICENSE PLATES IN NABATIYAH YESTERDAY (MARCH 20) IN EARLY AFTERNOON.

B. ANOTHER CORRESPONDENT SAW A SMALL NUMBER OF MEN ALLEGED TO BE IRAQIS NEAR COASTAL ROAD SOUTH OF SIDON YESTERDAY.

C. THERE HAVE BEEN SOME ONE HUNDRED IRAQIS IN THAT AREA FOR MONTHS.

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D. SHI'S DEPUTIES (ABDUL LATIF ZEIN AND KAZIM KHALIL) TOLD ME YESTERDAY THAT PREVIOUS DAY (MARCH 19) FOUR HUNDRED IRAQI VOLUNTEERS HAD BEEN STOPPED BY ADF AT GHAZIYAH, I.E., ON COAST ROAD BEFORE TURNING INLAND TO NABATIYAH. THIS FIGURE IS SUSPECT AND SHOULD PROBABLY BE DIVIDED BY IBN KHALDUN'S COEFFICIENT OF MENDACITY (10).

5. SECOND SERIES OF REPORTS, APPARENTLY UNRELATED TO FIRST, CONCERNS CONVOY OF IRAQI TANKS WHICH ALLEGED TO HAVE ENTERED LEBANON YESTERDAY. NUMBER VARIOUSLY ESTIMATED AT 20 TO 100. SOURCES FOR THIS HAVE BEEN CAMILLE CHAMOUN AND SON DANY. PALESTINIANS ALSO WERE REPORTED TO BE EXPECTING ARRIVAL OF SUCH A CONVOY, BUT WE ARE TOLD THEY NOW SAYING THAT IRAQIS CLAIM THEY TRIED SEND TANKS AND BATTALION SPECIAL FORCES TROOPS, BUT SYRIANS WOULD NOT LET THEM. IT SEEMS TO US THAT IF THERE IS INDEED SUCH A TANK CONVOY WANDERING AROUND SYRIA OR THE BEKAA, IT WOULD OR COULD BE SPOTTED BY SOMEONE RELIABLE. WE DO NOT PUT THE CHAMOUNS IN THAT CATEGORY, BUT YOU NEVER KNOW.  
PARKER

UNQUOTE VANCE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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